

10
13. (previously presented) Apparatus according to Claim 11, further comprising a supporting framework with an upper traverse (22) and a lower traverse (23), which are connected to one another by supporting columns (20, 21); with the pressure strut (24) being displaceably mounted on the supporting columns (20, 21) and the load cell (28) positioned on the lower traverse (23).

10
14. (previously presented) Apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the position sensor (31) is attached to the displaceable pressure strut (24).

15. (previously presented) Apparatus according to Claim 10, further comprising a test station (39) to which the apparatus, the test station being assigned to a packaging unit (42) for random testing of the packs (10).

16. (previously presented) Apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein the test station (39) is positioned in the region of a pack conveyor (38) between a packer (36) and a cello-packer (37).

17. (previously presented) Apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein a plurality of packaging units (42) having at least one test station (39) each are connected to a central computer (43) for the central logging of operational data concerning the testing results.

18. - 29. (canceled).

30. (previously presented) Method according to Claim 3, wherein the course of force acting on the pack (10) during uniform movement of the pressure exerting means (26) is represented as a second derivative of the force versus distance diagram.

31. (previously presented) Method according to Claim 2, wherein the pack (10) is a cuboid-shaped pack (10) comprising a large surface front side (13) and corresponding rear side and the force is transferred to the pack (10) across the entire pack surface on the entire large front side (13) or rear side.

32. (previously presented) Method according to Claim 3, wherein the pack (10) is a cuboid-shaped pack (10) comprising a large surface front side (13) and corresponding rear side and the force is transferred to the pack (10) across the entire pack surface on the entire large front side (13) or rear side.

33. (previously presented) Method according to Claim 5, wherein the pack (10) is a cuboid-shaped pack (10) comprising a large surface front side (13) and corresponding rear side and the force is transferred to the pack (10) across the entire pack surface on the entire large front side (13) or rear side.

34. (previously presented) Method according to Claim 2, wherein the pressure-exerting means (26) is applied to the pack (10) at a constant rate of movement and the measuring device is a pressure gauge.

35. (previously presented) Method according to Claim 3, wherein the pressure-exerting means (26) is applied to the pack (10) at a constant rate of movement and the measuring device is a pressure gauge.

36. (previously presented) Method according to Claim 5, wherein the pressure-exerting means (26) is applied to the pack (10) at a constant rate of movement and the measuring device is a pressure gauge.

37. (previously presented) Method according to Claim 6, wherein the pressure-exerting means (26) is applied to the pack (10) at a constant rate of movement and the measuring device is a pressure gauge.

38. (previously presented) Apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the position sensor (31) is attached to the displaceable pressure strut (24).

39. (previously presented) Apparatus according to Claim 11, further comprising a test station (39) to which the apparatus, the test station being assigned to a packaging unit (42) for random testing of the packs (10).

10
def
7/8/04